

# RITE OF BLESSING OF NEW LECTIONARY FOR LITURGICAL USE

## INTRODUCTION

The Lectionary have as their purpose for the celebration of the Eucharist and therefore may be termed as “sacred liturgical books.”

The intention is to devote these liturgical books entirely to the celebration of the Eucharist as expressed in the presence of the community through a special blessing, which is preferably to be imparted within Mass.

Any priest may bless the liturgical book, provided they have been made in conformity with the norms of the Church.

## I ORDER OF BLESSING WITHIN MASS

An occasion in which the Lectionary to be blessed are used in the celebration of the same Mass will contribute to the instructive character of the liturgy and to the faithful’s understanding of the rites. Thus, the lectionary may be blessed in the presence of the congregation before the introductory rites of the Mass. But when the blessing does not take place before Mass, the rite proceeds as follows:

In the homily after the reading of the word of God, the celebrant explains both the biblical readings and the meaning of the blessing.

After the general intercessions, assisting ministers or representatives of the community that has provided the articles to be blessed bring these to the celebrant.

In the following or similar words, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing.

**Brothers and sisters, the Lectionary that have been brought forward will receive a special blessing, in order to indicate that they are to be set aside exclusively for divine worship. Together, then, let us pray that God will also strengthen us by his blessing. Let us ask that he who alone is holy may make us holy and worthy, so that we may celebrate the liturgy with reverence and devotion.**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

The celebrant then says:

**Let us pray.**

All pray briefly in silence; then, with hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing.

**Blessed are you, O God,  
Who through your Son, the Mediator of the New Testament,  
Graciously accept our praise  
And generously bestow your gifts on us.  
Grant that these sacred liturgical books,  
Set aside for the celebration of divine worship,  
May be signs of our reverence for you  
And helps to our faithful service.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R/ Amen.**

**Or, for liturgical vestments.**

**Blessed are you, O God,  
For making your own Son the eternal High Priest  
Of the New Covenant  
And for choosing our own brothers  
To be the stewards of your mysteries.  
May your ministers who use these vestments,  
Prepared for the celebration of the liturgy  
And set apart by your blessing,  
Wear them with reverence  
And honor them by the holiness of their lives.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R/ Amen.**

**For hymnals or service books.**

**Lord God of glory,  
Your Church on earth joins with the choirs of heaven  
In giving you thanks and praise.  
As we gather to worship you in wonder and awe  
May the songs on our lips  
Echo the music that swells in our hearts.  
Bless us as we use these hymnals (service books)  
And grant that we may glorify and praise you,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Now and for ever.**

**R/ Amen.**

## II SHORTER RITE

When the faithful have gathered, the celebrant begins in these words.

**Celebrant:** Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All reply:** Who made heaven and earth.

Or

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**All reply:** And with your spirit.

As circumstance suggest the celebrant may prepare those present for the blessing. One of those present or the celebrant may read a test of sacred scripture.

Romans 12:1

**I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.**

Other texts for suggested use: Gal 3:26-27; Acts 2:42; John 4:23

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All pray briefly in silence; then, with hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing.

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Who through your Son, the Mediator of the New Testament,  
Graciously accept our praise  
And generously bestow your gifts on us.  
Grant that these sacred liturgical books,  
Set aside for the celebration of divine worship,  
May be signs of our reverence for you  
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**R/ Amen.**